

# 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 16<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2009,  
IN THE PLAYING FIELD PAVILION, GREAT BILLING**

**PRESENT** Councillor S. P. Rockall (Chairman)  
Councillors Mrs S. Shaw, Mrs D. Nichol, M. S. Clasper,  
R. Clements, P. Gable, M. Pearson, P. Stevenson,  
Rev. S. Palmer,

**Also Present:** Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)  
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)  
One elector.

|           |  | <b>Action</b>        |
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| <b>92</b> | <b><i>Apologies</i></b>  |                      |
| 92.1      | Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs E. Palethorpe, D. Hughes, J. Marlow and Fr. Damien Walne and from Cllr. C. Malpas (NCC & NBC).  |                      |
| 92.2      | The Chairman read out a letter that he had received from Cllr. Sean Usher resigning his position as Parish Councillor due to work commitments. It was with deep regret that his resignation was accepted. The Clerk is to write to Mr. Usher thanking him for all his hard work during his time as a Councillor. | <b>Clerk</b>         |
| <b>93</b> | <b><i>Minutes</i></b>  |                      |
| 93.1      | The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 12 <sup>th</sup> January 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.  |                      |
| <b>94</b> | <b><i>Declarations of Interest</i></b>   |                      |
| 94.1      | The Chairman declared an interest in retrospective planning application N/2009/0059 – erection of front boundary fence at 1 Sheerwater Drive due to living in Sheerwater Drive himself. He had also been approached by other residents with reference to it.   |                      |
| <b>95</b> | <b><i>Public Forum</i></b>   |                      |
| 95.1      | Keith Bonham reported that a vehicle being parked overnight in Little Billing was churning up the grass verge. He will attempt to find out to whom the vehicle belongs and advise the Clerk who will then write to the owner.  | <b>KB/<br/>Clerk</b> |

|   |   | <b>Action</b>                        |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
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| <b>96</b>                                     | <b><i>Ongoing Matters</i></b>   |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| 96.1  | Little Billing Village Signs. Both the Clerk and Cllr. C. Malpas had chased this matter up with Richard Hall of NBC. Things are progressing albeit slowly. Held over to next meeting.   |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| 96.2  | Little Billing Village Green. All papers are now with NCC. Held over to next meeting.   |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| 96.3  | <p>Burial Grounds. Cllr. Rev. Stephen Palmer reported that the working party had met on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January and they had two proposals to put forward to the Council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• That the Parish Council take steps to annex the parcel of land situated at the top of The Leys, bounded by St Andrews Church, Lady Winefrides Walk and Gt Billing Park, with a view to the possibility of using it as an additional parish burial ground.</li> <li>• In order to keep the correspondence going, to reply to the letter received from Mrs Simone Wade of NBC regarding acquisition of land for burial purposes, identifying two possible sites within the parish, i.e. land at Ecton Brook off Great Billing Way going down to the A45 (currently used for football) and land opposite Little Billing church also going down to the A45.</li> </ul> <p>It was RESOLVED that both of these proposals be adopted. Cllr. Ray Clements advised that a solicitor known to him had guaranteed that he could discover who owned the land at the top of The Leys and it was anticipated this would cost in the region of £200. It was RESOLVED that RC should pursue this.</p> | <p><b>Clerk</b></p> <p><b>RC</b></p> |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| 96.4  | <p>Website. Cllr Clements reported that the website had been down over the weekend. He had just received an advertisement to go onto the website and it was RESOLVED that for people living within the parish the cost would be £25 for the year and £40 for others. There had been several enquiries regarding advertising in the Parish Bulletin and Cllr Michael Clasper was asked to obtain a quotation for a two-sided A4 insert. It was agreed that a review of the bulletin should be held at the next meeting.</p>  | <b>MC</b>                            |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| <b>97</b>                                     | <b><i>Finance</i></b>   |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| 97.1  | <p>The accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td>E.ON (Street Lighting Charges)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">365.41</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Moulton College (Chain Saw Course – GSM)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">600.00</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Garden Machines N'ton (Chain Saw consumables)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10.17</td> </tr> <tr> <td>NCC (GSM Pension – January)</td> <td style="text-align: right;">451.53</td> </tr> </table>  | E.ON (Street Lighting Charges)       | 365.41 | Moulton College (Chain Saw Course – GSM) | 600.00 | Garden Machines N'ton (Chain Saw consumables) | 10.17 | NCC (GSM Pension – January) | 451.53 |  |
| E.ON (Street Lighting Charges)                | 365.41  |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| Moulton College (Chain Saw Course – GSM)      | 600.00  |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| Garden Machines N'ton (Chain Saw consumables) | 10.17   |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |
| NCC (GSM Pension – January)                   | 451.53  |                                      |        |  |        |   |       |                             |        |  |

|           |   | <b>Action</b>           |
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| <b>97</b> | <b><i>Finance (Continued)</i></b>   |                         |
| 97.1      | Accounts for payment - Cont...  |                         |
|           | Clerk (Postage/Telephone calls/Printer Cartridges) 54.74  |                         |
|           | C. Campling (Top up £500 account) 306.15  |                         |
|           | Small Business Payroll (SO – January salaries) 3,000.00   |                         |
|           | Zedi Ltd (CCTV sign Lt Billing bus shelter) 20.70   |                         |
|           | ESPO (6 rolls paper towels) 36.69   |                         |
| 97.2      | A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure to the end of January together with the bank reconciliation had already been circulated. There were no questions or comments.   |                         |
| 97.3      | The Clerk reported that she had received information from NBC that formal agreements would be put in place to cover the operation of deposit accounts held with them. Interest rates would be set in line with the average rate of interest achieved by the Council in the preceding period less 0.5%. After discussion it was RESOLVED that a letter be sent to various banks/building societies to ascertain rates of interest that may be obtained. The Clerk is to liaise with Cllrs. Peter Stephenson and Michael Pearson on the content of the letter and the recipients.   | <b>Clerk/<br/>PS/MP</b> |
| 97.4      | Government Procurement Card. Completed forms have been forwarded to Barclaycard and outcome awaited. Held over to next meeting.   |                         |
| <b>98</b> | <b><i>Planning</i></b>  |                         |
| 98.1      | The following application notices were considered and comments made as noted:<br><ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(a) N/2009/0031 – 1 Standing Stones – Proposed erection of detached dwelling and garage and re-positioning of garage. It was agreed the Council would object to this application on the grounds that the development would alter the footprint of the road and also there were serious concerns regarding use of the premises for business purposes.</li> <li>(b) N/2009/0022 – 3 Chedworth Close – front porch. No comments or objections.</li> <li>(c) N/2009/0059 – 1 Sheerwater Drive – erection of front boundary fence – Retrospective. It was agreed that the council would object to this application on the grounds of poor quality fence/workmanship and appearance.</li> </ul> |                         |
| 98.2      | It was RESOLVED that the local Planning Authority be advised of the comments made.  |                         |

|            |   | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>98</b>  | <b><i>Planning (Continued)</i></b>  |               |
| 98.3       | <p>The following determinations had been received from NBC:</p> <p>(a) N/2008/1055 – Erection of 3 x 5-bedroomed dwellings with attached garages and associated access and landscaping – Land adjacent to Old Convent, 29 High Street, Great Billing. APPROVED subject to conditions.</p> <p>(b) N2008/1243 – Installation of front dormer, alterations to existing dormer and alterations to front gable – Woodheys, 16 Penfold Drive, Great Billing – APPROVED subject to conditions.</p>   |               |
| <b>99</b>  | <b><i>Other Matters</i></b>   |               |
| 99.1       | <p>Report from meeting of working party to further the attainment of Quality Status. The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January all criteria required was reviewed. The area that requires further work at this point is production of an Annual Report. The Clerk is to email all members of the Quality Status Committee to arrange a further meeting to discuss this.</p>   | <b>Clerk</b>  |
| 99.2       | <p>Report from Leisure &amp; Recreation working party. The Chairman reported that at the meeting held on 19<sup>th</sup> January the proposed contracts for grass cutting at The Leys and the Playing Fields were discussed. It was proposed by the working party that the Council continue to use the present contractors as these had given the cheapest quotations and this was duly RESOLVED. It was also RESOLVED that permission be obtained from the Green Space Manager for any additional cuts or additional work not covered in the contracts. The Council will now prepare appropriate contracts for signing by both D. F. Phipps and Park Landscapes and the Clerk is to advise the unsuccessful contractors.</p> | <b>Clerk</b>  |
| <b>100</b> | <b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation</i></b>  |               |
| 100.1      | <p>The Green Space Manager was congratulated on passing the Chain Saw Course.</p>   |               |
| 100.2      | <p>Report from Green Space Manager.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fire Risk Assessment has been completed over the past month and all fire equipment has been checked and certificate received. All is fully up to date.</li> <li>• Has done a lot of snow clearing. Car park had to be closed as cars were getting stuck.</li> <li>• As little else could be done has started on the redecoration of the pavilion.</li> <li>• Had visited The Leys with Laurence Padbury and Dick Oram of D. F. Phipps with regard to the flooding there. Mr. Oram</li> </ul>   |               |

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| <b>100</b> | <b><i>Leisure &amp; Recreation (Continued)</i></b>  |               |
| 100.1      | Report from Green Space Manager (Cont..) was having difficulty in putting together a quotation as the work involved is an unknown factor. It was agreed that this should be done on a 'best guess' estimate. After further discussion it was RESOLVED that the Chairman would approach a Water Diviner to see if he was able to locate the underground pipes/drains.  |               |
| 100.2      | Green Space, Ashmead. An email had been received from Sam Taylor, Solicitor at NBC, via Cllr. Malpas, confirming that this matter is still with the landowners Taylor Wimpey and that she will endeavour to expedite. Held over to next meeting.  |               |
| 100.3      | Celebration Avenue, The Leys. Awaiting quotation from D F Phipps.   |               |
| 100.4      | Great Billing Pocket Park. The Chairman reported that Jim Snedker has completed Risk Assessment and also produced documents that will form the basis of the application for the Green Flag Award in 2010.   |               |
| 100.5      | Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr. Michael Clasper reported that Ruth Rolls addressed the meeting held at the end of January when 30 to 40 members of the public were in attendance. The application for funding has to be in by 27 <sup>th</sup> February and it is anticipated this will be available in the current financial year. Cllr Clasper has almost completed his report. A meeting of the Management Committee is to be held shortly and at this time the terms and conditions under which the management committee is to be run will be approved. |               |
| 100.6      | Repainting of Parish Council owned street lamps. GSM has produced a schedule showing location and condition of the lamps and Colin Robinson has been in touch with him with regard to producing a quotation for the work required. Held over to next meeting.   |               |
| <b>101</b> | <b><i>Northants County Association of Local Councils</i></b>  |               |
| 101.1      | No report due to Cllr David Hughes being unwell and unable to attend the meeting.   |               |
| 101.2      | The Chairman reported that he had been asked to speak at the next meeting of the Larger Councils Partnership to be held on Wednesday 11 <sup>th</sup> March from 7.00 – 9.00 pm at Earls Barton. The talk will be on 'Doing things the Billing way' and all Councillors are invited to attend.  |               |

|            |   | <b>Action</b> |
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| <b>101</b> | <b><i>NCALC (Continued)</i></b>   |               |
| 101.3      | An email had been received from Danny Moody asking for nominees to attend the Queen's Garden Party at Buckingham Palace on Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> July. The Clerk is to speak to Mr. Moody to ascertain if Bernard Weston and/or David McKintosh would be suitable candidates.   | <b>Clerk</b>  |
| <b>102</b> | <b><i>Correspondence Received</i></b>   |               |
| 102.1      | A letter had been received from Campaign to Protect Rural England regarding litter picks during the period Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> March to Sunday 29 <sup>th</sup> March. This is being organised by Cllr Michael Clasper.   |               |
| 102.2      | Details of training received from NCALC had been received, a copy of which had already been circulated to all Councillors. Those interested in attending either the course on the new 'Power of Wellbeing' or 'Are you Acting Legally?' were asked to advise the Clerk as soon as possible.   |               |
| <b>103</b> | <b><i>Councillors Reports not covered elsewhere</i></b>   |               |
| 103.1      | <p>The following answers were given to questions asked by Cllr. Ray Clements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work on the war memorials is ongoing. All algae has been removed but they still require cleaning and repainting. The weather has been against them recently but the contractors have kept in touch with the GSM.</li> <li>• The new bench for Gt. Billing has been ordered and once this has proved satisfactory one will be ordered for Lt Billing and a second for Gt. Billing.</li> <li>• No emergency plan is in place for the parish. It was RESOLVED that a committee be set up to formulate this. To be put on the agenda for the next meeting.</li> <li>• The bus shelter in Little Billing has now been completed and the notice board fitted.</li> </ul> |               |
| 103.2      | Cllr. Mrs Debbie Nichol reported that she had attended the recent PFI (Private Finance Initiative) meeting. The estates involved are Bellinge, Blackthorn, Eastfield and Lumbertubs and it would appear that £170M is earmarked for this project. Cllr David Palethorpe is very involved. NBC have put in the first stage of the bid but are not sure if they are going to do the second part. The next meeting will probably be in June.   |               |

|                             |  | <b>Action</b> |
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| <p><b>104</b><br/>104.1</p> | <p><b><i>Closed Session</i></b><br/>The GSM has passed his chain saw course and his contract states that attainment of additional qualifications will be rewarded with an increase in salary. It was RESOLVED that this be taken into consideration at the time of the next annual salary review.</p>  |               |
| <p>104.2</p>                | <p>The Clerk had asked for a decision to be made on an increase in her contracted hours. After discussion it was RESOLVED that she should continue keeping a timesheet each day and be paid for hours worked as at present. This would be reviewed again in a few months time.</p>   |               |
| <p><b>105</b><br/>105.1</p> | <p><b><i>Closure and Dates of next Meetings</i></b><br/>There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.20 pm.<br/>Next Meetings:<br/>Parish Council Meeting – Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2009 at 7.30 pm.<br/>Due to Easter Monday falling on the second Monday of April the Parish Council Meeting will be put back by a week to Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at 7.30 pm.</p> |               |