

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 9TH MARCH 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, M. Pearson,
P. Stevenson, Rev. S. Palmer,

Also Present: Mrs. S. Harris (Clerk to the Council)
C. Campling (Green Space Manager)
Cllr K. Davies (NBC), Cllr C. Malpas (NBC & NCC)
PC Richard Jewell and PCSO Russell Crayford
Two electors.

		Action
106	Apologies	
106.1	Apologies were received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs D. Nichol (family commitment), D. Hughes (Standards Committee Meeting) and Fr Damien Walne (attending investiture) and also from Cllr. D. Palethorpe (NBC).	
107	Minutes	
107.1	The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Monday 16 th February 2009 were approved and signed as a true record.	
108	Declarations of Interest	
108.1	None were declared.	
109	Public Forum	
109.1	PC Richard Jewell reported the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A parishioner had requested he ask the Council when the water trough in Great Billing would be maintained. It was explained that this had proved difficult over the years as the algae grew back within days of being removed and as it was fed with constantly running water chemicals were ineffective. RESOLVED that the Green Space Manager would approach the Environment Agency for their advice. 	GSM
109.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Over the past few weeks parishioners had been asked for the three main areas of concern that they would like the police to tackle. Top of the list was 'motor cycle nuisance', followed by 'youths hanging around' and 'litter and fly tipping'. 	

		Action
109	<i>Public Forum (Continued)</i>	
109.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> PC Flavell is to be trained on mini motorbikes in the hope that he will be able to alleviate the motorbike problem. It was agreed that an article regarding this would be put into the Parish Bulletin. 	MC
109.4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SCTE is now up to full strength and are in need of a fifth bicycle, the estimated cost of which is in the region of £500. PC Jewell was asked to write to the Clerk with a request for funding and this would be put on the agenda for the next Council meeting. 	
109.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Speed checks had been done in Fishponds Road and Orchard Hill at the end of last month with some success and it is hoped to do this on a monthly basis. 	
110	<i>Ongoing Matters</i>	
110.1	Little Billing Signs. Details of the proposed design and location of the new signs had been received from NCC and forwarded to all Councillors. All were pleased with the design but felt locations should be altered. It was RESOLVED the Clerk would advise Richard Hall that the Council would like one of the new signs to be placed by the wall surrounding The Priory just past the roundabout at the bottom of Little Billing Way and the other on the left hand side of the road (when travelling in a westerly direction) along Manorfield Way near the junction with Fishponds Road. The sign currently in place in Fishponds Road just off Little Billing Way should be left in place.	Clerk
110.2	Little Billing Village Green. Cllr. Malpas reported that the Greens Registration Officer was in the process of checking through everything. Held over to next meeting.	
110.3	Burial Grounds. Letter had been sent to Mrs Simone Wade but no reply received as yet.	
110.4	Web Site. Cllr. Clements reported the Forum had been taken down as it was being abused. There had been some feedbacks, all of which had been responded to.	
111	<i>Finance</i>	
111.1	The accounts for payment had been circulated and it was RESOLVED that payment be made as per the following:	
	ESPO – Sweeper Head and Soap Dispenser	38.67
	First4Blinds – New blinds for Pavilion	299.20
	E.ON – Electricity Pavilion	1,344.55
	NCALC – Training Courses	86.75

		Action
111	Finance (Continued)	
111.1	Accounts for Payment (Cont..)	
	PCC of Billing – Grant towards leaflet printing	86.75
	J. Snedker – Professional Fees	138.75
	Small Payroll Company – January salaries	3,000.00
	NCALC – Training Courses	58.00
	Anglian Water – Water Rates	95.02
	Littlethorpe – New Bus Shelter Little Billing	8,924.00
	C. Camping – Top up £500 Account	328.57
	Clerk – Expenses	100.69
111.2	The electricity bill for the pavilion appeared very high. This was due to the extremely cold weather during this quarter, the increased cost in electricity and the fact that the previous bill had been estimated. It was agreed that the Clerk would look into the possibility of switching supplier and/or changing to monthly billing.	Clerk
111.3	A copy of the schedule showing Income and Expenditure to the end of February together with the bank reconciliation had already been circulated. This was approved.	
111.4	A discussion took place regarding the Deposit Account Agreement received from NBC. As this agreement may be terminated at any time with 7 days written notice monies may be moved if better interest rates can be found. RESOLVED that this should be signed and returned.	
111.5	Government Procurement Card. Nothing further has been heard although chased by the Clerk. Held over to next meeting.	
112	Planning	
112.1	The following application notices were considered and comments made as noted: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (a) N/2009/0089 – 21 Elwes Way, Great Billing – conversion of existing barn into living accommodation. Replacement double glazed windows to front and rear elevations and erection of conservatory to the rear. No comments or objections. (b) N/2009-0096 – 20 Standing Stones, Great Billing – erection of first floor balcony. No comments or objections. 	
112.2	RESOLVED that the local Planning Authority be advised of the comments made.	

		Action
114	<i>Leisure & Recreation (Continued)</i>	
114.1	Green Space Managers Report (Cont..) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kitchen drawers and cabinets in the kitchen in the Pavilion are beginning to fall apart. Most are held together with duct tape and glue. The Chairman replied that as refurbishment of this was budgeted for in the next financial year, this would be looked at then. 	
114.2	Green Space, Ashmead. Nothing to report at present. Held over to next meeting.	
114.3	Celebration Avenue, The Leys. The GSM had approached the nursery at Pitsford and subject to availability they are able to deliver the trees. A letter from the Clerk would be required to enable them to deliver and invoice. D F Phipps are able to supply and install tree protection and plaques and are also able to get engraving done.	
114.4	Great Billing Pocket Park. Nothing to report.	
114.5	Little Billing Pocket Park. Cllr Clasper reported that application for grant has been completed and response is awaited.	
114.6	Repainting of Parish Council owned street lamps. Still awaiting quotation from Colin Robinson. Clerk is to contact him again.	Clerk
115	<i>NCALC</i>	
115.1	Nothing to report. The next meeting Cllr Hughes will be attending is to be held on 23 rd March.	
116	<i>Councillors Reports Not Covered Elsewhere</i>	
116.1	Cllr Clasper confirmed that all arrangements were in place for the Litter Pick in the parish on Saturday 21 st March. All details had been emailed to Councillors. The Chairman is to arrange for this to be advertised in the 'Down Your Way' article in the Chronicle & Echo newspaper. Cllr Clasper has arranged for all rubbish to be collected and photographs will be taken in each ward.	SR
116.2	Concern was expressed that since Sue Parsons, Neighbourhood Warden, has been off work due to family illness the parish has deteriorated. Cllr. Keith Davies reported that there are now only 9 wardens employed. It was agreed that the Clerk should write to NBC asking them to pass on to Mrs Parsons the Parish Council's thanks for all her hard work and expressing sympathy with her family situation.	Clerk

		Action
117	<i>Correspondence Received</i>	
117.1	A letter had been received, via SLCC, from the Western Area Neighbourhood Watch appealing for funding. The Clerk is to write to them asking them to redirect this appeal through Neighbourhood Watch(es) within the parish.	Clerk
117.2	A letter had been received from the Campaign to Protect Rural England giving details of their 2009 Planning Road Show to be held at Great Houghton on Tuesday 21 st April. The Clerk is to book two places and ask for the cost of £29.00 to be converted into one year's subscription.	Clerk
117.3	A letter had been received from NBC agreeing to our request for provision of a dog bin at the top of the Leys by St. Andrews Church in Great Billing. Cost would be £250 for supply and installation and £300 per year to empty it. RESOLVED that this should be accepted.	Clerk
117.4	A letter had been received from NCC regarding the temporary road closure at Wellingborough Road/Billing. The dates of work have been amended and will now take place on the weekends of 21 st March and 28 th March.	
118	<i>Closure and Dates of Next Meeting</i>	
118.1	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10.05 pm. Next Parish Council Meeting – Monday 20 th April 2009 at 7.30 pm.	

APPENDIX 1

Report on Training Session: “Are you acting legally”?

On Wednesday 25th February Sue Harris (Clerk), Sue Shaw and I attended a NCALC training session held at Weedon, entitled, ‘Do you act legally?’

I’m pleased to report that we at Billing are apparently getting most of it right. There were a few items that we need to consider.

- 1 The Clerk, as an officer of the council, can have delegated powers to make decisions on behalf of the council. One such useful example that we might like to consider is to delegate power to the clerk to deal with some planning applications. We could word it that obvious non-contentious applications could be answered directly by the clerk, particularly if the timescale for replies is such that it falls between meetings. If in any doubt the clerk could consult with one or two other councillors before replying. Matters to be considered which require consultation could be delayed, by writing to the planners and then discussing those applications at a council meeting.
- 2 In order to ensure that the agenda used at any meeting is the agenda that is kept the advice is that the Chairman should sign the agenda during the course of a meeting. This is obviously not difficult for us to adopt.
- 3 If the agenda states that there is a report to be presented at the meeting by a particular councillor or the Green Space Manager then that report should be pre-prepared and sent out with the agendas. Whilst this may be a nuisance in some ways it will also, hopefully, reduce the amount of time spent at meetings on certain items. This report by me is in effect a test of this system.
- 4 We should note, where our powers come from when we make decisions and/or spend money. This may take a little getting used to but is something we should take up. The powers used or to be used can and should be shown on agendas and also on minutes. These changes will probably result in longer agendas but should also reduce the amount of note taking required to produce the minutes.
- 5 Committees vs. Working Groups. If we have a committee meeting it is to be treated exactly the same as a Parish Council meeting, i.e. full agenda, clerk to attend, minutes to be produced, notices to be posted and open to the public. If we hold a working group we can meet informally with no requirements for agendas, clerk’s attendance etc but a working group can only make recommendations not decisions. However if a working group meets and produces a report (see 3 above) then any decisions can be made at a future Parish Council meeting with reports having been sent out with the agenda for that meeting.

Any comments regarding the above can be dealt with at this month’s meeting.
Steve Rockall